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SUBJECT: SPLM Supports UN, Plans a Way Forward

¶1. (SBU) During a meeting of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) Political Bureau, held in Juba on September 14-16, the party announced its unconditional support for UN troops in Darfur and developed an eleven- point plan to move the process forward. The plan includes meeting with all rebel parties, initiating a cessation of hostilities and traditional reconciliation process with the janjaweed, pushing the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue, and engaging with the U.S. to improve bilateral relations with Sudan.

¶2. (SBU) While the meeting did not include the major cabinet shake-ups some expected, Foreign Minister Lam Akol was admonished for going against SPLM positions and publicly opposing UN intervention. He was told to either follow party policy or remain silent. Akol relented, but defended himself by claiming he did not have clear instructions from his party and that if the SPLM wanted to go against the policies of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), it should resign from government. Akol, State Minister for the Presidency Telar Deng, and State Minister for the Interior Aleu Aleu were all warned to fall into line or be replaced in two months.

SPLM's 11-point Plan for Peace in Darfur

¶3. (SBU) The SPLM decided upon the following course of action to help the crisis in Darfur:

(1) Reiterate support for deployment of UN forces in Darfur to protect the civilian population and enable delivery of humanitarian aid. A high-ranking SPLM official commented to Consul General Juba that the humanitarian and protection goals must be clear to allay the fears of ruling NCP.

(2) Urge the NCP and other members of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to consent to deployment of UN troops and try to find a face-saving way to avoid confrontation with the international community.

(3) Engage the armed movements in Darfur, including SLA/Abdel Wahid and the National Redemption Front, to address their concerns with the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

(4) Call for an immediate ceasefire in Darfur between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and all armed movements.

(5) Call for a cessation of hostilities between ethnic groups and begin a traditional reconciliation process that includes the janjaweed.

(6) Convene a meeting in Southern Sudan with all armed movements to achieve a comprehensive peace.

(7) Call for dialogue between the parties to the conflict.

(8) At the conclusion of this process, call for the African Union to

convene the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC).

(9) Engage the USG in dialogue with the GNU to improve bilateral relations.

(10) Work for the realization of the proposed meeting between President Bush and President Bashir.

(11) Task the Chairman of the SPLM (Salva Kiir) to form a Contact and Follow-up High Committee on Darfur under his leadership.

HUME